

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 13, paragraph beginning on line 18:

The twentieth aspect of the present invention is the optical information recording medium of the ~~first~~ eighteenth aspect, wherein the target has a resistivity of 0.5  $\Omega$  cm or less.

Page 18, paragraph beginning on line 17:

In the case that the barrier layer containing a mixture of carbide and oxide is formed with the step of (2), sputtering with the single carbide target which is generally low in resistivity is performed by DC discharge sputtering or DC discharge sputtering with a pulse wave form. The resistivity of 0.5  $\Omega$  cm or less is particularly preferable. A mixed target of carbide and oxide can be also used without causing any problem, so long as it keeps its resistivity of 0.5  $\Omega$  cm or less. A target having a resistivity of more than 0.5  $\Omega$  cm may frequently cause abnormal discharge, possibly making it difficult to normally form the film.